ALBERTA PROFILES:

YOUTH
IN THE
LABOUR FORCE

2007

Alberta Employment and Immigration

Highlights

For the purpose of this profile, youth are defined as persons aged 15 to 24 years.

1. Alberta Youth Population Statistics

- Alberta had the highest proportion of youth in its working age population (WAP) among all the provinces.
- The Alberta youth population grew by 27.2% between 1997 and 2007.

2. Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

- Alberta youth had the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 7.2%.
- Alberta youth had the highest employment rate in Canada at 66.9%.

3. Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

- Alberta's services-producing sector employed 75.0% of all working youth.
- In 2007, Alberta youth accounted for 43.2% of those employed in the Accommodation and Food Services industry.

4. Alberta Youth Employment by Occupation

- Sales and services occupations in Alberta employed 41.8% of youth.
- While 91.9% of youth employed in Trades, transportation and equipment operators occupations were male, 82.7% of youth employed in Health occupations were female.

5. Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

- The highest proportion of employed youth had graduated from high school.
- A greater proportion of youth was employed in part-time positions compared to Alberta's WAP.

6. Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries

- The average hourly wage for youth in Alberta was lower than that for Alberta's WAP.
- Alberta youth experienced a 9.0% increase in their average hourly wage between 2006 and 2007.
- On average, male youth had higher hourly wages than their female counterparts.

1. Alberta Youth Population Statistics

Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the ages of 15 and 24 years.[1]

Figure 1

Number and Per cent of Youth by Province, 2007			
	Working Age Population (15+ years)	**Youth (15-24 years)**	**% Youth in Working Age Population**
Canada	**26,553,400**	**4,353,500**	**16.4%**
Newfoundland	424,300	63,800	15.0%
Prince Edward Island	113,300	19,700	17.4%
Nova Scotia	764,300	122,400	16.0%
New Brunswick	613,200	94,900	15.5%
Quebec	6,314,500	954,700	15.1%
Ontario	10,361,600	1,720,900	16.6%
Manitoba	898,700	156,700	17.4%
Saskatchewan	751,400	137,700	18.3%
Alberta	2,740,700	503,800	18.4%
British Columbia	3,571,400	578,800	16.2%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

Figure 1 shows the number and proportion of youth in Canada by province. In 2007, Alberta had the highest proportion, 18.4%, of youth within its working age population (WAP). Newfoundland had the lowest proportion at 15.0%.

Figure 2

Youth and Working Age Population, 1997 and 2007				
	1997	**2007**	**Growth**	**% Growth**
Canadians	23,255,500	26,553,400	3,297,900	14.2%
Youth in Canada	3,946,200	4,353,500	407,300	10.3%
Albertans	2,140,700	2,740,700	600,000	28.0%
Youth in Alberta	396,100	503,800	107,700	27.2%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

As Figure 2 shows, Alberta's youth population grew by 27.2%, or 107,700 people, between 1997 and 2007. This growth rate was over 2.6 times greater than the growth rate for Canadian youth as a whole. However, the growth rate for youth in Alberta was 0.8 of a percentage point lower than that of the total WAP in Alberta.

[1] Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE

2. Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

Figure 3

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics, 2007			
	Youth (15-24 years)	**Albertans (15+ years)**	**% of Albertans (15-24 years)**
Working Age Population	503,800	2,740,700	18.4%
Labour Force	363,200	2,030,600	17.9%
Employed	337,000	1,959,400	17.2%
Unemployed	26,200	71,100	36.8%
Unemployment Rate	7.2%	3.5%	
Participation Rate	72.1%	74.1%	
Employment Rate	66.9%	71.5%	

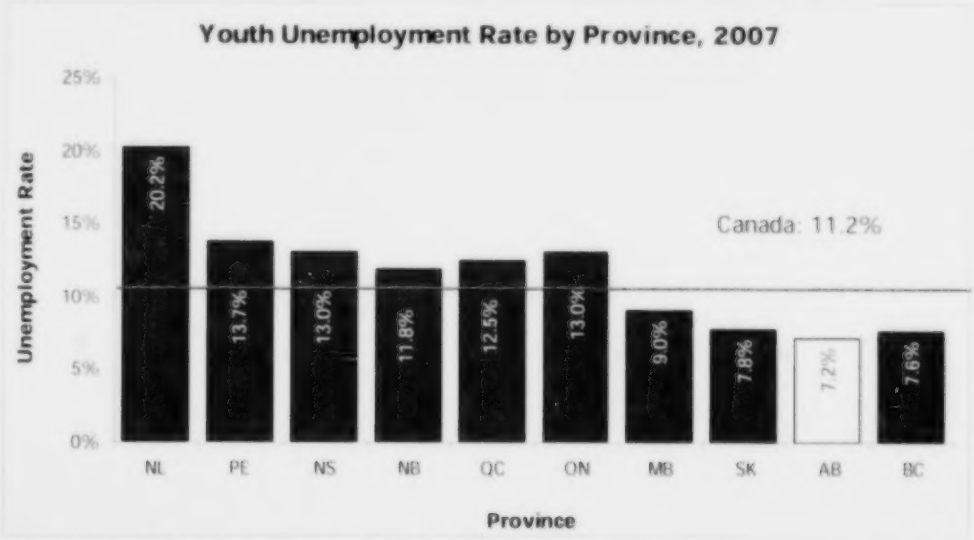
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

As shown in Figure 3, youth made up 17.9% of Alberta's labour force and 17.2% of those employed in Alberta.

Youth accounted for more than a third, or 36.8%, of the unemployed in Alberta in 2007. Their unemployment rate was 7.2%, up from 6.8% in 2006 and 3.7 percentage points higher than that of Alberta's WAP. Both the participation and employment rates for Alberta youth were lower than those for the total WAP by 2.0 and 4.6 percentage points, respectively.

In 2007, Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 3.5%. Figure 4 shows that the unemployment rate for Alberta youth was 7.2%, the lowest among provinces and 4.0 percentage points lower than the Canadian average.

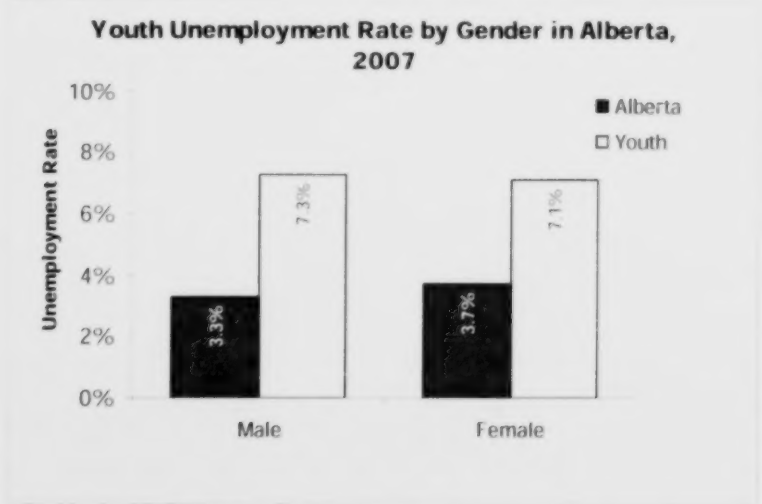
Figure 4



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

Figure 5 shows that the unemployment rates for both male and female youth were higher than Alberta's WAP in 2007. While unemployment rates for males in Alberta's WAP were slightly lower compared to those for females in the same group, the opposite was true for the youth. The unemployment rate for the male youth was higher than that for the female youth, at 7.3% and 7.1%, respectively.

Figure 5



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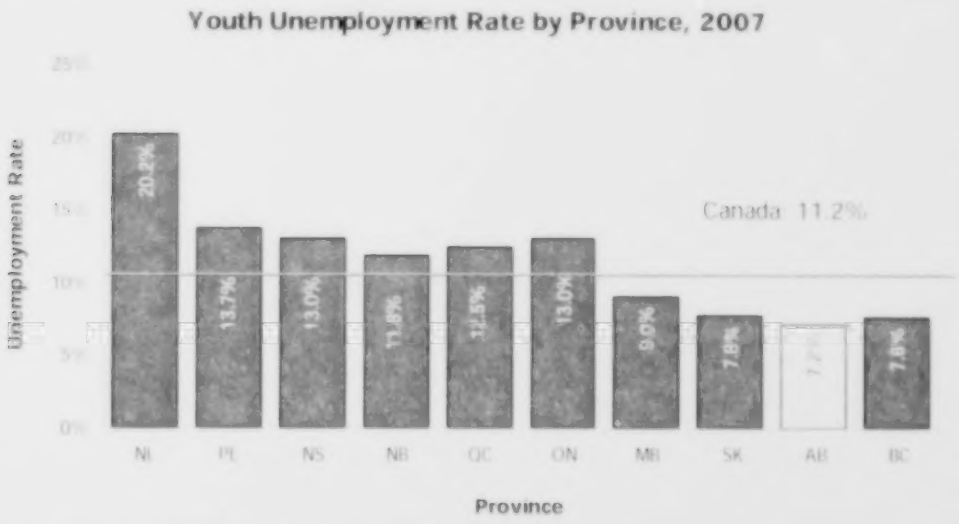

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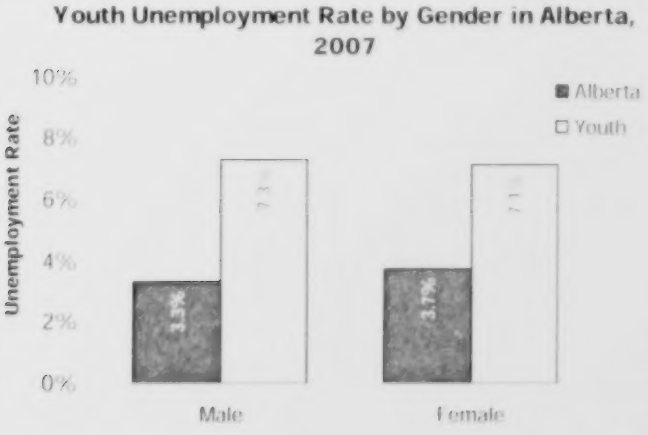
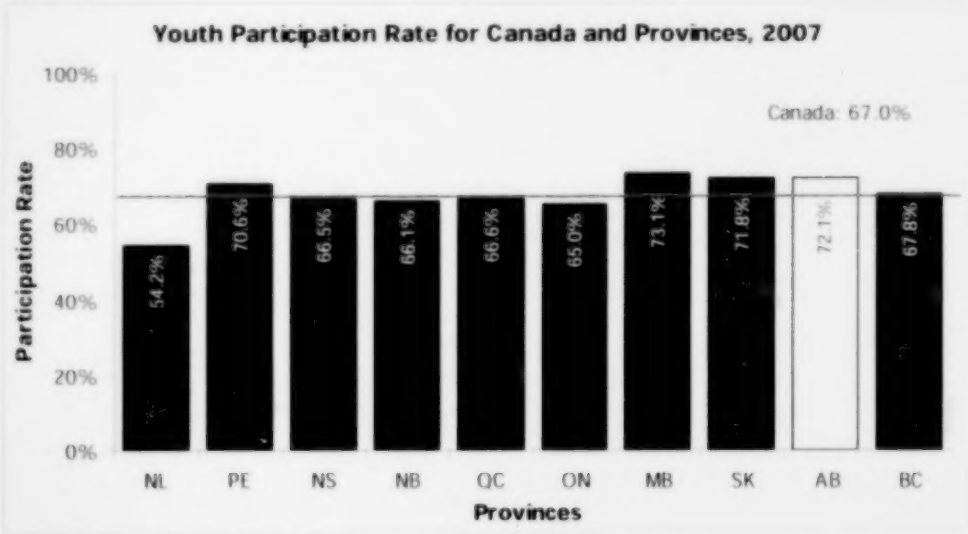


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

In 2007, Alberta's youth participation rate of 72.1% (Figure 6) was second only to Manitoba among the provinces. This was 5.1 percentage points higher than the Canadian average of 67.0%.

Figure 6



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

Figure 7 compares the 2007 participation rates of the youth by gender in Alberta. Although female youth had a higher participation rate than other females in Alberta's WAP, their rate was lower than that of male youth by 5.4 percentage points.

Figure 7

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

Figure 8 shows the employment rates of youth in Canada and the provinces in 2007. Alberta's youth employment rate of 66.9% was the highest among provinces. This rate was 7.4 percentage points above the average Canadian rate.

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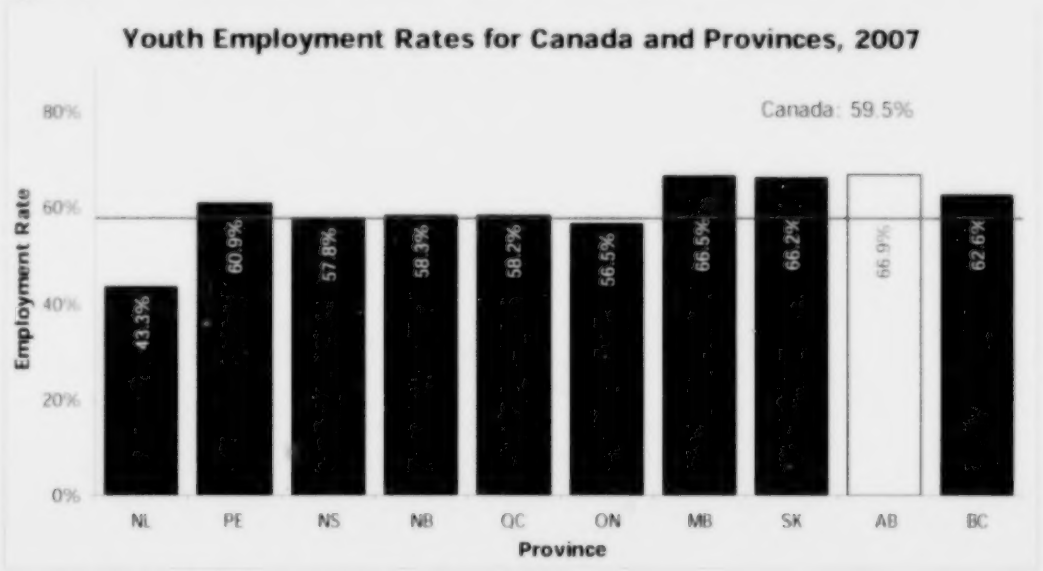

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Figure 9 shows the 2007 youth employment rate by gender compared to the total WAP in Alberta. The employment rate for male youth was 4.9 percentage points higher than that of the female youth and 4.2 percentage points higher than that of all females in Alberta's WAP.

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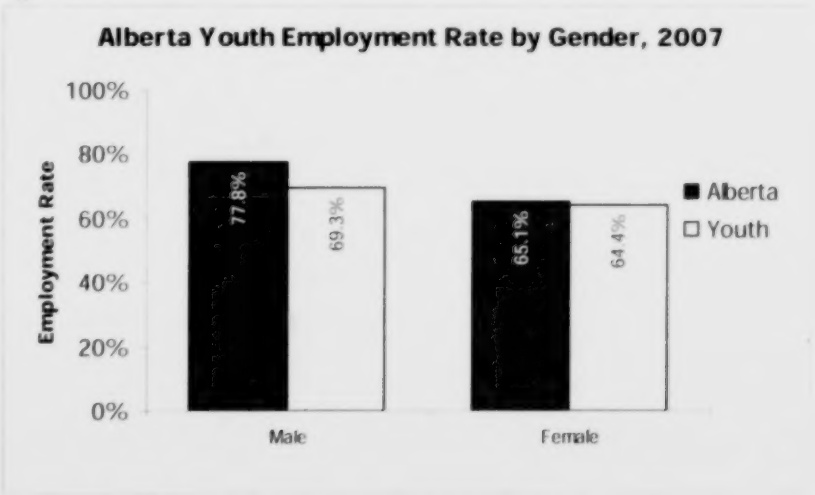

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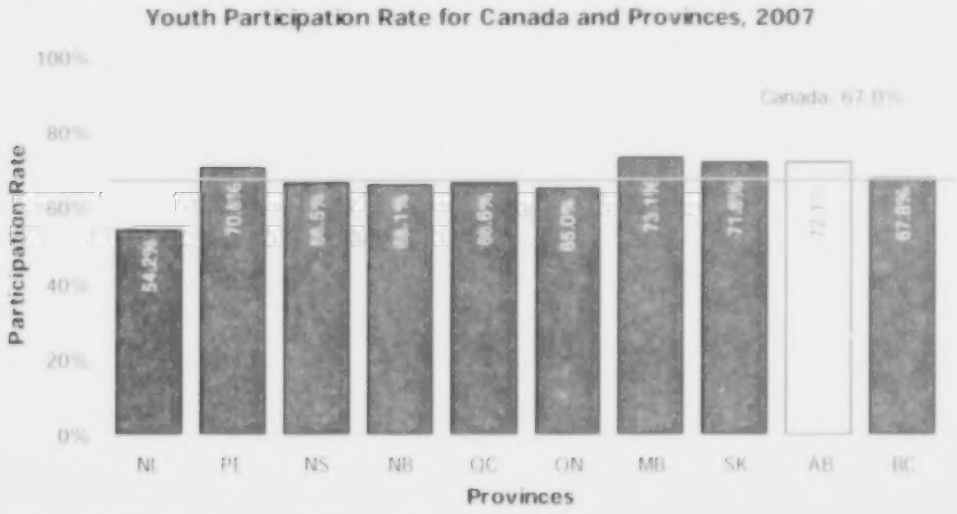

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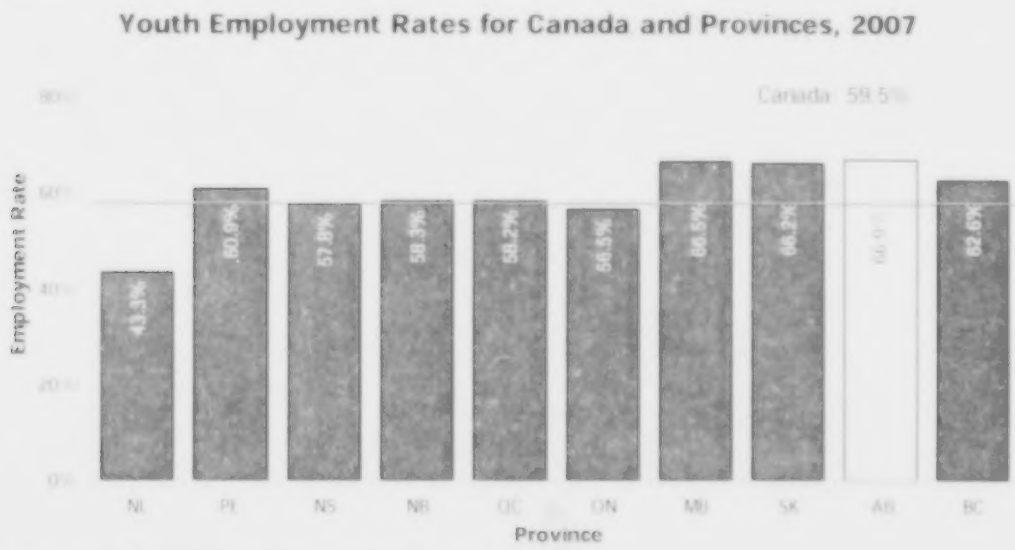

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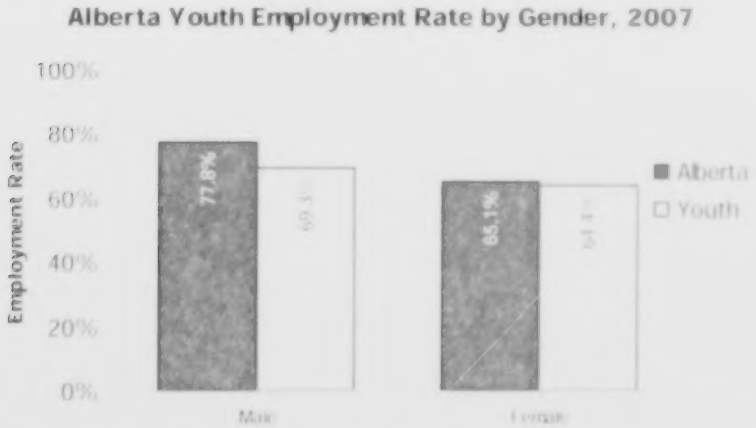

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

3. Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

Figure 10 displays youth employment by industry in 2007. In that year, there were 557,000 Albertans (15+ years) employed in the goods-producing sector and 1,402,400 employed in the services-producing sector. Of those employed in the goods-producing sector, 15.1% were youth. In the services-producing sector, 18.0% of those employed were youth. 75% of all working youth were employed in services-producing sector. Two industries employing the largest number of youth were the Retail Trade industry, 72,400, and the Accommodation and Food Services industry, 50,400.

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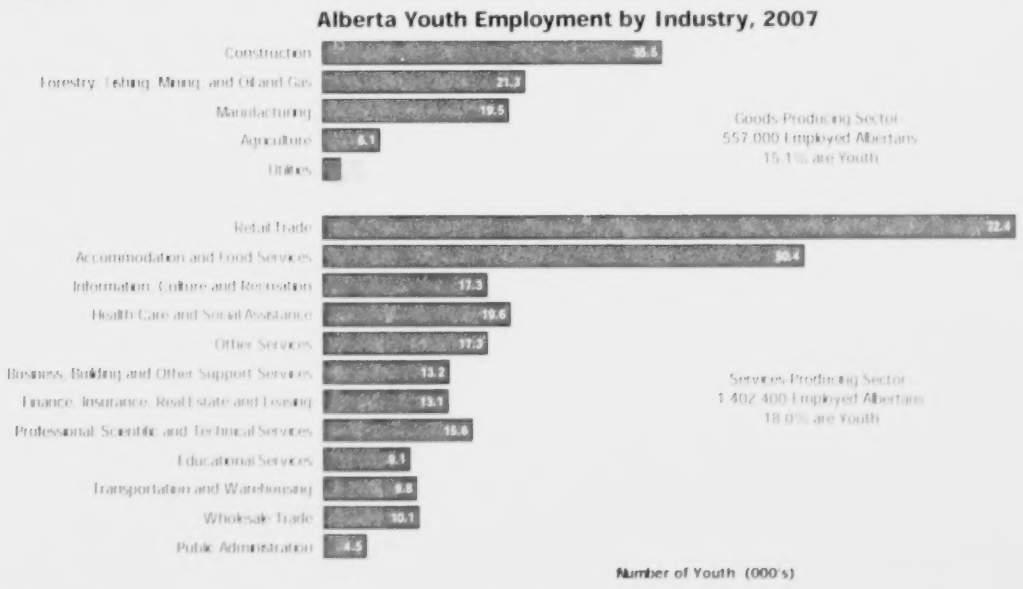

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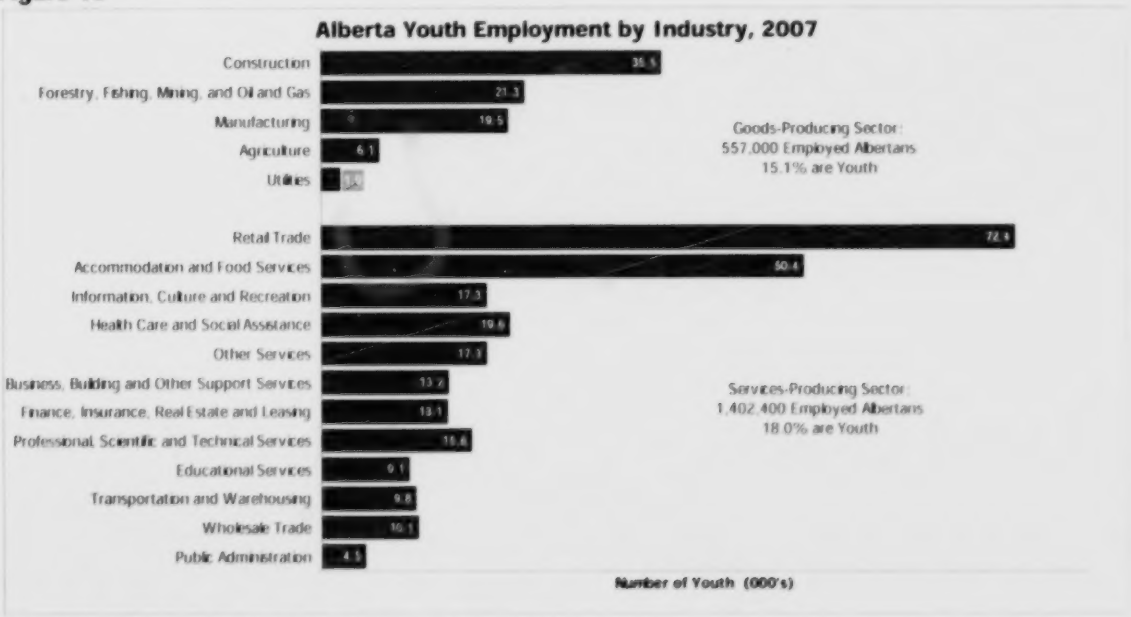

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007
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Over 78% of the youth employed in the goods-producing sector were male (Figure 11). Of those, 46.9% were employed in the Construction industry. The opposite was true for the services-producing sector, where females accounted for 55.2% of the youth employed. Of those female youth employed in the services-producing sector, 23.3% worked in Retail Trade and 21.5% in Accommodation and Food Services.

Figure 11

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry and Gender, 2007

	Number Employed		Proportion by Gender	
	Male	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**
Goods-Producing Sector	**66,100**	**18,200**	**78.4%**	**21.6%**
Agriculture	4,200	1,800	68.9%	29.5%
Construction	31,000	4,600	87.3%	13.0%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, and Oil and Gas	16,000	5,300	75.1%	24.9%
Manufacturing	13,800	5,700	70.8%	29.2%
Utilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Service-Producing Sector	**113,200**	**139,500**	**44.8%**	**55.2%**
Accommodation and Food Services	19,600	30,800	38.9%	61.1%
Educational Services	2,700	6,400	29.7%	70.3%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	5,300	7,900	40.5%	60.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	3,000	16,600	15.3%	84.7%
Information, Culture and Recreation	8,900	8,400	51.4%	48.6%
Business Building and Other Support Services	8,200	5,100	62.1%	38.6%
Other Services	8,300	9,000	48.0%	52.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	6,800	6,800	43.6%	43.6%
Public Administration	1,600	2,900	35.6%	64.4%
Retail Trade	32,500	32,500	44.9%	44.9%
Transportation and Warehousing	7,300	2,500	74.5%	25.5%
Wholesale Trade	6,700	3,400	66.3%	33.7%
Total	**179,300**	**157,700**	**53.2%**	**46.8%**

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007
Note: N/A signifies a suppressed figure due to insufficient response.

4. Alberta Youth Employment by Occupation

Figure 12 displays the number of employed youth in Alberta by occupation in 2007. The greatest proportion of Alberta youth, 41.8%, was employed in the Sales and services occupation. This was followed by Trades, transportation and equipment operators, at 21.3%, and Business, finance and administration, at 12.8%. Management had the lowest proportion of youth employed, at 1.5%.

Figure 12

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

Figure 13 compares the proportions of male and female youth employment by occupation in Alberta in 2007. The top two occupations where the proportion of male youth employment was greater than that of females were Trades, transportation and equipment operators, 91.9%, and occupations unique to primary industry, 84.2%. For female youth, the top two occupations where their proportion was greater than that of males were Health, at 82.7%, and Social science, education, government and religion, at 81.1%.

Figure 13

Alberta Youth Employment by Occupation and Gender, 2007		
	Male	**Female**
Art, culture, recreation and sport	34.9%	65.1%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	73.6%	26.4%
Health	17.3%	82.7%
Natural and applied sciences	72.4%	27.6%
Unique to primary industry	84.2%	15.8%
Social science, education, government and religion	18.9%	81.1%
Management	59.7%	40.3%
Trades, transportation and equipment operators	91.9%	8.1%
Business, finance and administration	26.1%	73.9%
Sales and services	40.0%	60.0%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

5. Alberta Youth Employment by Educational Level

Figure 14 shows the highest level of education attained by Alberta youth employed in 2007. Almost 30% of employed youth were high school graduates followed by 27.6% who had some high school education. Only 5.6% had completed a university degree compared to 20.5% of Alberta's WAP.

Figure 14

Youth Employment by Level of Education, 2007		
Educational Attainment	**Albertans (15+ years)**	**Youth (15 to 24 years)**
0 - 8 Years	1.7%	1.5%
Some High School	11.8%	27.6%
High School Graduate	22.8%	29.7%
Some Post-Secondary	9.3%	18.6%
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	33.9%	17.0%
University Degree	20.5%	5.6%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

Figure 15 displays full-time and part-time employment for both genders in 2007. The proportion of employed youth working in part-time positions was more than double the proportion for Alberta's WAP. The proportion of female youth employed part-time in Alberta was higher than that of their male counterparts, at 38.9% and 26.3%, respectively.

Figure 15

Full-time and Part-time Employment by Gender, 2007				
	Youth (15 to 24 years)		**Albertans (15+ years)**	
	Employed	% of total	Employed	% of total
Both Genders	337,000	100.0%	1,959,400	100.0%
Full-Time	228,600	67.8%	1,649,100	84.2%
Part-Time	108,400	32.2%	310,400	15.8%
Male	179,300	100.0%	1,075,400	100.0%
Full-Time	132,200	73.7%	983,000	91.4%
Part-Time	47,100	26.3%	92,300	8.6%
Female	157,700	100.0%	884,100	100.0%
Full-Time	96,300	61.1%	666,000	75.3%
Part-Time	61,300	38.9%	218,100	24.7%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007

6. Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries[2]

Figure 16 displays the average hourly wages paid to youth by industries in 2006 and 2007. The average hourly wages increased by 9.0% from $13.21 in 2006 to $14.40 in 2007. The average hourly wage of all Albertans in 2007 was $22.40.

All industries paid their youth employees higher average hourly wages in 2007 than in 2006. Four industries had average hourly wage increases of more than 10.0%. These were: Other Services, 15.4%; Construction, 11.1%; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, 10.3%; and Public Administration, 10.1%.

Figure 16

Average Hourly Wages by Industry and Gender for Alberta Youth, 2006-2007*

	2006	2007
Goods-Producing Sector	**$16.98**	**$18.35**
Agriculture	$12.25	$12.41
Construction	$16.27	$18.08
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, and Oil and Gas	$19.80	$20.95
Manufacturing	$15.70	$16.99
Utilities	N/A	$19.91
Services-Producing Sector	**$12.09**	**$13.15**
Accommodation and Food Services	$10.15	$10.91
Educational Services	$14.43	$15.70
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	$13.92	$14.19
Health Care and Social Assistance	$14.60	$15.66
Information, Culture and Recreation	$11.50	$12.39
Business Building and Other Support Services	$13.33	$14.41
Other Services	$12.67	$14.62
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	$15.78	$17.41
Public Administration	$15.44	$17.00
Trade	$10.69	$11.70
Transportation and Warehousing	$17.15	$17.49
Average	**$13.21**	**$14.40**

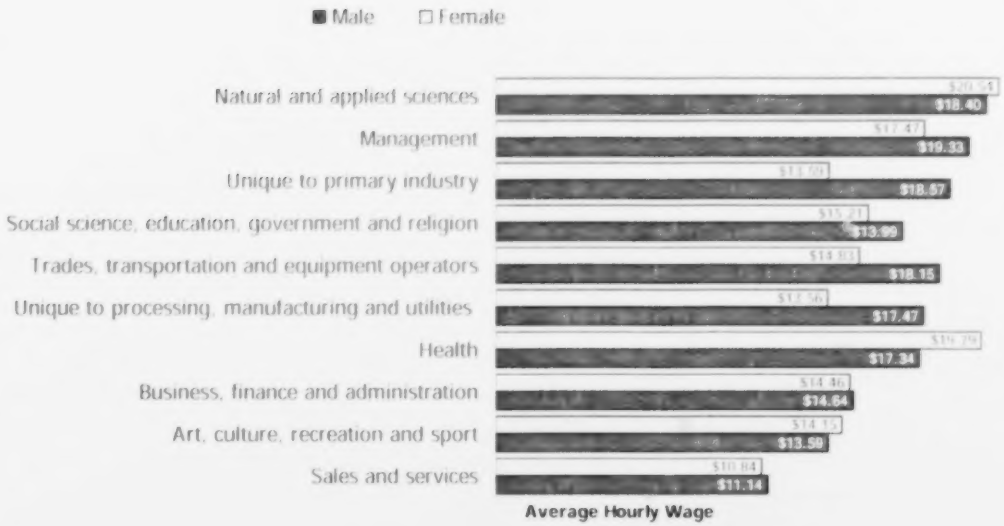
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007
Note: N/A signifies a suppressed figure due to insufficient response.
*Average hourly wage excludes those self-employed.

[2] Weekly and hourly wage rates are calculated in conjunction with usual paid work hours per week.

Figure 17 compares the average hourly wage rate by occupation and gender for youth in Alberta in 2007. Male youth earned higher average hourly wages than their female counterparts in all occupations except three: Natural and applied sciences, Health, and Art, culture, recreation and sport. The lowest average hourly wages for both male and female youth were found in the Sales and services occupations, at $11.14 and $10.84, respectively.

Figure 17

Average Hourly Wage Rate* by Occupation and Gender for Youth in Alberta, 2007



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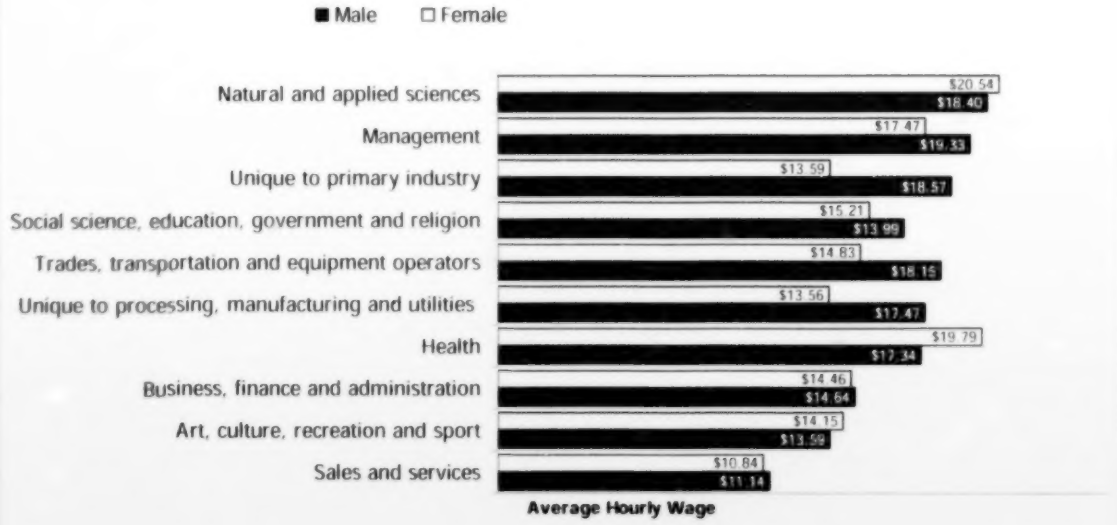

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2007
*Average hourly wage excludes those self-employed.

Appendix

All of the following definitions are from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of working age population (WAP).

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15+ years were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Working Age Population: Those persons 15+ years except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Youth: Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the ages of 15 and 24 years.